M/s. Boeing has offered to facilitate setting up of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Nagpur in India. Boeing has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government of Maharashtra for land and an MRO agreement with Air India in this regard. Site for the facility is being finalized. It will not be possible to indicate a definite time frame for completion of the work of establishment of this plant at this stage.

Expansion process of Chennai Airport

4292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai airport stands in the process of expansion and improvement of airports in Metro cities;

(b) what is holding up the process and why the process is very slow; and

(c) whether there will be an objective approach in decision making instead of being carried away by the whims and fancies and the political eccentricities of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Expansion and development of airport infrastructure is an ongoing process and upgradation works are being regularly carried out with an objective approach as and when demand arises to augment passenger handling capacities at the airports.

The matter of development and modernisation of Chennai airport is being decided in consultation with the State Government. State Government has been requested to convey its views regarding the modalities for development as well related land acquisition issues by end May, 2007. The consultative process is being carried on objectively.

SWOT analysis of IA and private airlines

4293. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a SWOT analysis of Indian Airlines and other private airlines in the country;

(b) the measures and all out efforts employed to make up the weaknesses and threats on the one side and to avail the strengths and opportunities on the other; and

(c) whether he has ever received complaints that the refreshments supplied in Indian Airlines are repetitive and poor in standard while the same is much better in private airlines though the source of supply for both the airlines is the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) SWOT analysis is a normal part of managerial functions of an airline. Indian Airlines, as a result of continual analysis of its strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats have been making constant efforts to offer improved product and services.

(b) Indian Airlines constantly strives to improve its performance and image to remain competitive in the market. Some of the measures taken in this regard are product and service upgrades, fleet augmentation/renewal, improvement in cabin ambience, rebranding corporate identity, introduction of various promotional fares/schemes to remain competitive and to improve traffic on the services, rehabilitation/rejuvenation of cabin crew etc.

(c) Some complaints relating to in-flight catering have been received. However, in Indian Airlines, periodical changes in the menu are carried out in order to avoid repetition. Meals are uplifted from reputed flight catering units like M/s Taj, Ambassdor and LSG from where private airline also uplift their meals.

City-side development of non metro airports

4294. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about eleven non metro airports are not likely to see city side developments ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of these non metro airports; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for the development of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.